

THE BERGS

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November 1, 2003

Allen J. Fiksdal, Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear Mr. Fiksdal:

Re: BP Cherry Point Cogeneration Project Draft EIS

It is with grave concern that I write this letter regarding the Cogeneration Project. My concern is for two issues: 1. Air quality, and 2. Noise.

1. Air Quality – It is most disconcerting to be told by the BP spokesman that when the modeling results were higher than BP liked, they proceeded to change the model so that results met their desired result. What good is modeling, what confidence can we have in the modeling results, why should the results be relied upon under these conditions? Even with the BP desired results, the most harmful pollutants, PM2.5 at an estimated 270 tons per year, will be carried by the prevailing south wind over the fastest growing urban growth area in Whatcom County as measured by the Census between 1990 and 2000. Because Birch Bay is a resort community as well, with the population doubling, even tripling, during the summer months, that many more people, especially the children and senior adults, will be exposed to very hazardous conditions. Short of not building the cogen plant at all, at least proper monitoring should take place with a stop generating order in place to reduce the hazard during peak hazardous conditions.
2. Noise – Despite repeated requests and explanations regarding the noise pollution from the existing BP Cherry Point Refinery, noise-monitoring stations have never been placed where the noise is most prevalent and irritating. Again, how can the noise monitoring results be relied upon for decision-making purposes when the results of the monitoring are skewed in BP's favor rather than based on the reality of the residents' experience? Again, short of not building the cogen plant at all, at least appropriate monitoring should take place and a stop generating/stop refining order should be in place when noise levels reach the point of interrupting sleep at night.

Unfortunately, the BP heavy industry property is literally right across the street from an urban growth area that has always been a resort area. Activities at BP must, therefore, pass the test of operating accordingly, even though they exist in a heavy industry zoned area.

Your consideration of these concerns and matters will be greatly appreciated.

Kathy Berg

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